



Citrus County

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FLORIDA  
DEPARTMENT  
OF HEALTH  
CITRUS  
COUNTY

EPIDEMIOLOGY

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# The Citrus Connection

WWW.CITRUSCOUNTYHEALTH.ORG

## Florida Department of Health, Citrus County Infection Prevention Program

The Florida Department of Health, Citrus County Infection Prevention Program, hope that *The Citrus Connection* will be informative and useful to you. As a public health agency, we collect many types of information in order to monitor the community's health. We work as a team to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida. Please remember to keep us informed with any information that is beneficial to the Infection Prevention Program.

### RABIES:

Rabies is a fatal infection. Every year at least two animals sent for testing come back positive for rabies. You are our eyes and ears! By reporting animal bites and scratches, you help to protect the health of your patients and the community. Highest priority is placed on bites or scratches involving wild animals and bats, wounds to the head and/or neck, and/or bites and scratches involving children.

Raccoons, bats, foxes and skunks commonly carry the rabies virus. The rabies virus lives in the saliva of infected animals. Infected animals spread the virus to others by scratching, biting **or even licking**. The virus can also be spread through infected saliva contact with open cuts or wounds, and through the mouth, eyes and nose.

If treated immediately, rabies is preventable. **If left untreated in humans and animals, rabies is fatal.** If someone has been bitten or scratched by a strange animal, contact Citrus County Animal Services immediately at (352) 746-8400, or contact the Citrus County Health Department (352) 527-0068.

### TB:



YES, I can prevent  
Tuberculosis!

I can take safe,  
effective  
medicines.....

Citrus County Health Department: Working Towards A Healthier Future for the People of Florida.

Our Mission Promote, protect, and improve the health of all people in Florida.

# Latent TB Infection

I am healthy.

The TB germs are “sleeping” in my body but could “wake up” in the future.

I have no symptoms.

My chest x-ray is normal.

I am not contagious.

I have a positive result on a TB skin test or blood test.

# Active TB Disease

I have a serious illness that could kill me if left untreated.

The TB germs have “woken up”.

I may have symptoms — cough, fever, weight loss, night sweats.

My chest x-ray may be abnormal.

I may be contagious and could infect other people when TB germs are spread through the air when I cough, laugh or speak.

I may have a positive result on tests of my phlegm.

Can my **Latent TB Infection** (sleeping germs) wake up and make me sick with **Active TB Disease**?

Yes, and certain factors increase my risk!

- I arrived recently from another country where TB is common.
- I have HIV.
- I was in close contact with someone with active TB disease.
- I have diabetes, kidney failure, or cancer.
- I had surgery to remove part of my stomach.
- I live or work in a hospital, jail, drug rehab center or shelter.
- I use injection drugs.
- I have received an organ transplant.
- I take certain medications that affect my immune system, like prednisone (steroids) or other pills or injections to treat certain types of skin, joint and gastrointestinal conditions.

If I have **Latent TB Infection**, can I reduce my chances of getting sick with **Active TB Disease**?

